
Review

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her sorrows are told and not exaggerated. In the end she gets happiness, and the children rally round her, the young men and maidens also. There is sorrow but not bitterness, and while the play is propagandist in its nature, it is not rabid. It is well and clearly told, and is pleasing in diction and expression. We can imagine that it would act well; indeed, it has been acted very successfully, and the acting rights are free. E. O'G.

Heroic Romances of Ireland. Translated into English Prose and Verse, with Preface, special Introduction, and Notes, by A. H. LEAHY. Vol. ii. D. NUTT. 3s. 6d. net.

This volume, handsomely printed and bound, contains translations of five of the lesser *Táin bó*, or Cattle-raids,—*Táin bó Fraich*, *Dartada*, *Regamoin*, *Flidais*, and *Regamna*. All are preludes to the great *Táin bó Cualnge*, the Cattle-spoil of Cooley, and, with the exception of the first, have appeared with German translations in Windisch's series of Irish Texts. Readers of the *Celtic Review* will find *Táin bó Flidais* specially interesting, in that a much fuller and quite different version of it is now being given from the Glenmasan Manuscript by Professor Mackinnon. Mr. Leahy gives the literal prose rendering with expanded metrical version on the opposite page, the latter serving largely as a commentary on the other, which is often laconic to obscurity. Both are well done in their respective styles. The prose version will be found useful by students of Middle Irish, and if in the verse translation occasional liberties are taken, these are largely a matter of taste, and can readily be checked by reference to the left-hand page. Mr. Leahy's method of dealing with Irish proper names is apt to mislead the purely English reader. In the prose version he very properly keeps, as a rule, the Irish form. In the other he is not consistent, sometimes giving Irish forms in the text with so-called pronunciations in footnotes, sometimes *vice versa*. It should have been made clear that the suggested 'pronunciations' are far from being phonetic; e.g. mac Fiachna was not sounded mac Feena, *Firbolg* is not adequately represented by *Feer-bol*, nor *Loegaire* by *Leary*, though the latter is the modern Anglicised form. Neither is it correct to say that *mag* was pronounced *maw*, though this may come near *magh* in modern Irish. A little care under this head would have saved English readers from amazement. Mr. Leahy has done well in adding a specimen of Irish text with exact interlinear translation. The volume should do much to popularise the study of Irish.

Contribution à la Lexicographie et l'Étymologie celtiques. By J. LOTH. Macon : Prolat, 1906.

Professor Loth in this is less impersonal than usual, less Homeric. He indulges in light badinage at the expense of Professors Anwyl and Zimmer, with a side glance at Mr. Wh. Stokes and Professor d'A. de Jubainville

occasionally *re* 'Préceltisme,' Celts' lip-courage, the word 'glas' in Erse, and 'Ligurianism,' respectively. Professor Morris Jones is not forgotten (has the 'Appendix' been continued to the world of letters in the Rhys-Jones *Welsh People*?). 'Eullyn' (p. 11) last year exercised the *Western Mail* readers: here it is scientifically explained in the driest of 'dry light.' 'Cromlech' (p. 15) is ill-understood by Bretons; p. 21 has the Rennes altar inscription; 'reinyat' is a dog in Welsh (as *llawr* was, before, a *mare* in Cymric),—the Jaffrennou 'druids' or 'ovates' (pp. 22 and 35, respectively) must look to their laurels.

H. H. J.

NOTE

Notes on the Study of Gaelic :—continued—Third Year's Course

The work of the third year will be directed (a) to filling in gaps in the departments of grammar and syntax; (b) to reading, prose and verse; (c) to exercise in continuous composition.

With regard to the first, it may be repeated that grammar and composition are not ends in themselves, but means towards securing correctness of expression. They are subservient to composition, and what is not strictly necessary for that purpose may safely be omitted. This will exclude, except by way of side reference, the philology and history of the language, and the philosophy of its syntax. At this stage we are concerned mainly with the facts; the explanation of them, where it is not absolutely required for intelligent appreciation, belongs to a more advanced stage. It will, however, include a careful comparison of the usage of English and Gaelic, an exercise which should prove a valuable training in observation and judgment.

Special attention should be given to the usage of the Gaelic article, to the treatment of nouns in apposition, and to the construction typified by such a phrase as *piuthar bean a' ghobhainn*, the smith's wife's sister, where *bean a' ghobhainn* is treated as a composite indeclinable noun. These and other points will be found adequately and succinctly treated in Dr. H. C. Gillies's chapter on syntax, which deserves careful study on the part of teachers.

As illustrating the connection which it is important to bring out as between grammar and syntax on the one hand and composition on the other, two points may be dwelt on here. Gaelic has no present or perfect participle, its only participle being the passive in *-te*, *-ta*. The want of this is to some extent supplied by *ag* and *air* with the verbal noun; e.g. *tha e ag iarraidh*, he is asking; *air dha éirigh*, he having risen. But in many cases the English present participle is better turned by means of a clause, e.g. he, answering, said to them, *fhreagair e agus thubhairt e riu*. Here the construction with *ag* would be inadmissible. Allowance must also be made, as in Latin, for the ambiguity of the English present participle, which is more often a perfect than a true present; in other words, its time is often prior to the time of the principal verb. The second point worth noting is the treat-